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Area Appointment

Health Dept. names W&I’s Dailey commission chair

PROVIDENCE – TANYA L. DAILEY, MD, director of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Clinic at Women & Infants Hospital and a clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been named chair of the Rhode Island Department of Health’s Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity.

The Commission is comprised of the former members of the Department of Health’s Minority Health Advisory Committee, members of the public, and 10 ex-officio members from other state agencies. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Department of Health about racial, ethnic, cultural or socio-economic health disparities; to advocate for the integration of the activities that will help achieve health equity; to help develop a health equity plan that addresses social determinants of health across state government; to align statewide planning activities in developing health equity goals and plans, and to educate other state agencies and organizations on health disparities.

Dr. Dailey said, “I am honored to be asked to chair the Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity. With the help of the many dedicated individuals and community partners who have been selected to serve on this commission, it is my hope to bring attention and healthy change to Rhode Island’s underserved populations.”

According to Michael Fine, MD, director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, “We need the Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity because we continue to see substantial health disparities in our state, because of the documented evidence of treatment inequality that exists throughout our current medical system, and because we need a comprehensive and multi-level strategy to identify and eliminate disparities.”

A graduate of Boston University and Tufts University School of Medicine, Dr. Dailey completed her maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at Women & Infants. She is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology, as well as maternal-fetal medicine. Her research interests include preterm labor and cervical insufficiency.

Recognition

RI chapter of ACP recognizes Drs. Cyr, Kizirian

CRANSTON – At the scientific meeting of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Physicians held May 9 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, JANICE KIZIRIAN, MD, FACP, was presented with this year’s Irving Addison Beck Laureate Award. Laureate winners are long-standing and loyal supporters of the College who have rendered distinguished service to their chapters and community and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the College is known.

The Chapter presented MICHELE G. CYR, MD, FACP, with this year’s Milton Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes Dr. Cyr’s outstanding contributions to the field of internal medicine and to the Rhode Island Chapter.

Gordon earns ‘Early Achievement Award’

PROVIDENCE – LESLIE GORDON, MD’98, co-founder and medical director of The Progeria Research Foundation, received the 2013 Early Achievement Award given by the Brown Medical Alumni Association during commencement weekend. It is presented to an alumnus who has graduated within the past 15 years in recognition of his/her outstanding service to the medical school, their local community, or a scientific or academic achievement.

Dr. Gordon is the co-founder and medical director of The Progeria Research Foundation. The mother of a child with progeria, she is principal investigator overseeing the PRF Diagnostics Testing Program, Cell & Tissue Bank and Medical & Research Database.

An assistant professor of pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School and Hasbro Children’s Hospital, she is also co-chair for the Progeria Clinical Drug Trial at Children’s Hospital Boston. Dr. Gordon assembled the PRF Genetics Consortium and was among those members who discovered the gene defect in progeria.
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Area Appointments

W&I appoints Dibble to head women’s GI health

PROVIDENCE – Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island recently appointed CHRISTY L. DIBLE, DO, division director of the Center for Women’s Gastrointestinal Health, part of its Department of Medicine.

Dr. Dibble is board-certified in gastroenterology. She has been part of the all-female staff at the Center for Women’s Gastrointestinal Health since 1997 and sees patients with a wide range of gastrointestinal disorders at the Center’s Providence and Woonsocket offices. She expanded the concept of women’s gastrointestinal health by establishing one of the nation’s only endoscopy units dedicated to women.

A graduate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Dibble completed a residency and a fellowship in gastroenterology through the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She is an assistant clinical professor at Brown now, and chairs the Women & Infants Multidisciplinary Gastrointestinal Tumor Board. She chairs a committee for the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island, part of the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Southcoast names Martelly to post

FALL RIVER, MASS. — Southcoast™ Health System recently announced the appointment of local obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) physician, PETER D. MARTELLY, MD, FACOG, as associate chief medical officer for the Southcoast Hospitals Group, which includes Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford and Tobey Hospital in Wareham.

Dr. Martelly currently serves as the associate director of medical education for Southcoast Hospitals Group and will continue to do so in his new position.

In his new position, Dr. Martelly will assist in overseeing Southcoast’s quality improvement and patient safety programs as well as assist in the day-to-day operations of the medical staff, medical staff services, continuing medical education and library departments.

Dr. Martelly received his MD from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed his residency and internship at Women’s & Infant’s Hospital.

Roberts to lead Roger Williams’ transplant unit

PROVIDENCE – TODD F. ROBERTS, MD, MSc, has been named director of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit and Section of Hematologic Malignancies at Roger Williams Medical Center. Dr. Roberts most recently led the hematologic malignancy group at Southcoast Center for Cancer Care and was associate attending in the Blood & Marrow Transplant program at Tufts Medical Center, Boston.

Prior to this position, he was a clinical associate professor of medicine in the Bone Marrow Transplant Program at Tulane University Hospital, New Orleans. He has special expertise and interest in stem cell transplantation and treatment of leukemia, myelodysplasia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

Dr. Roberts is a member of the Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and American Society of Hematology and is board certified in medical oncology. Dr. Roberts also is involved in clinical cancer trials in the areas of reduced-intensity (“mini”) stem cell transplant approaches as well as clinical trials in leukemias and lymphomas.

Since 1994, Roger Williams Medical Center has been home to Rhode Island’s only Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program. In this comprehensive transplant center, autologous, allogeneic (related and unrelated) and cord blood transplantation services are offered.
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Obituaries

JOHN JOSEPH O’BRIEN, MD, (Jack), 79, beloved husband, father, grandfather and respected friend, of Longboat Key, FL and North Kingstown, RI, passed away peacefully on May 25, 2013.

Raised and educated in Ireland, he graduated from medical school at University College Cork. After graduation, he crossed the Atlantic to serve his internship at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Worcester, MA. It was in Worcester that he met his beloved wife of 52 years, Maureen. Jack and Maureen moved from Worcester to Rhode Island in 1960, for his three-year residency in radiology at Rhode Island Hospital, where he was on staff for his entire career.

From 1966-1968, he proudly served in the U.S. Navy as Lt. Commander and was based out of Bethesda Naval Hospital. In 1968, he and Maureen moved back to Rhode Island to raise their four kids and to continue his career at the Rhode Island Hospital. He was one of the founding partners of what is now Rhode Island Medical Imaging. He was a proud member of the practice until his retirement in June of 1997.

During his lifetime, Jack was a member of the R.I. Medical Society and the Radiological Society of North America. In 1981, he was awarded Fellowship by the American College of Radiology.

He is survived by his wife, Maureen, his four children, John, Kevin, Diana, her husband Marc and his youngest daughter Michelle, his grandchildren, John III and Katherine, as well as many dear friends. Jack always had a contagious smile and laugh, was truly selfless, and will be missed by all. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

WARWICK – DR. JANUSZ E. STARAKIEWICZ, 50, passed away at his residence on April 6, 2013. He was the beloved husband of Maria Z. (Nawrocka) Starakiewicz, MD. He was born in Poland and lived in Warwick for the past 15 years.

Dr. Starakiewicz was a pathologist and director of the Blood Bank at Pawtucket Memorial Hospital. He received his medical degree from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland and served his medical residency at Brown University.

Dr. Starakiewicz was a member of the American Medical Association, Canadian Academy of Pathology and the College of American Pathologists.

He is survived by his two sons, Piotr “Peter” and Pawel “Paul” Starakiewicz, both of Warwick, and a brother and sister in Poland.
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